

# PENTABUS

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*For immediate release.*

## **PENTABUS STARTS ITS 50<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS WITH MOVE TO A NEW HOME AT LUDLOW ASSEMBLY ROOMS**

- **Move follows 40 years at the Old School, Bromfield.**
- **Full 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season announcement to follow.**



Pentabus are starting their 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations with a move to a new home at the recently refurbished [Ludlow Assembly Rooms](#), placing the organisation in the centre of their local rural market town.

After 40 years on the farm estate at the Old School in Bromfield, the move will give Pentabus a long term home, make the organisation more accessible to artists and audiences alike with good public transport links, and provide a dedicated library and hang out space especially designed by the award-nominated designer [Charlie Cridlan](#), who collaborated with Pentabus on *Jacaranda*.

Pentabus will work alongside a brilliant team at the Assembly Rooms and be part of building a thriving creative community in the heart of Ludlow, allowing the organisation to remain rooted in the local rural community even as its work speaks to the nation.

Pentabus opened its most recent live production, *Driftwood*, at the Assembly Rooms to a packed house and a fantastic reception and is delighted that all future productions can open at its new, greener and more accessible, home.

Commenting on the move, [Verity Overs-Morrell](#), Executive Director, Pentabus said:

*"The entire Pentabus team are thrilled to make Ludlow Assembly Rooms Pentabus' new home, deepening our existing close ties. The warmth received during our recent production of *Driftwood* and our *Young Writers* showcases was truly heartening. As we take this exciting step into our 50th Anniversary, we eagerly look forward to having more of you be a part of Pentabus."*

Steve Catanach, Interim Business Manager, Ludlow Assembly Rooms also commented:

*"Everyone at Ludlow Assembly Rooms is delighted to welcome Pentabus to our building. Whilst we will continue to maintain and broaden our own programme of cinema, live events, and workshops, it's fitting for us to now be home to one of the most esteemed national theatrical production companies."*

*We look forward to enjoying the mutual benefits that come from sharing our resources and knowledge. Together we will be able to provide high quality, theatrical productions that will be accessible to Ludlow's residents and visitors alike."*

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## ENDS

For more information contact [press@pentabus.co.uk](mailto:press@pentabus.co.uk).

Notes to editors:

### About Pentabus

*'... One of British theatre's unsung treasures.'*

The Guardian

Pentabus is the nation's rural theatre company, based in Shropshire. We are the only rural touring company that is committed to producing new work and tours to communities across the UK and beyond.

Our work brings communities and young people together, bringing outstanding contemporary productions with sector leading creative teams, directly to isolated rural communities, as well as platforming rural stories in urban settings.

Over five decades we've produced over 300 new plays, supported 120 playwrights and reached over half a million audience members. We've won awards and created lasting relationships with artists, venues and audiences across the country, and were the first to live stream from a village hall.

We excel at finding and nurturing new talent and have hosted Writers in Residences since 2014. These playwrights have gone on to be commissioned by the Birmingham Rep, Bristol Old Vic, Hampstead Theatre, HighTide, Manchester Royal Exchange, Nottingham Playhouse, Royal Court, The Bush, and the National Theatre.

We champion people of all ages to explore their creativity with particular emphasis on creating pathways into careers in the creative industries for those underrepresented, and people who live rurally under 30. Pentabus Young Company is our initiative offering playwriting workshops in schools, further and higher education, work experience and mentorships. As well as the opportunity to join our Young Writers' Programme, which celebrates its 10th year, and has catapulted many writers into careers in the arts, with recent graduate credits including Radio 4, BBC One, and Bristol Old Vic.

### Ludlow Assembly Rooms

Ludlow Assembly Rooms is a newly refurbished arts and community venue in the beautiful surroundings of rural south Shropshire. Open six days a week, we show a varied programme of film, theatre, music, talks, comedy, and lots more.

Our vision is to be a leading rural arts, entertainment and community centre, enjoyed for its diverse and stimulating programme, friendly atmosphere and accessibility to all.

Located on the corner of Market Square in Ludlow, we're at the heart of Ludlow, a stone's throw away from the 18<sup>th</sup> century pub where we started off. Ludlow Assembly Rooms offers £5 tickets for all visitors under 18, ensuring that the next generation can experience the magic of cultural performance.

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Ludlow Assembly Rooms is committed to promoting youth engagement in the arts and recognises the importance of providing affordable access to a diverse range of cultural experiences, from opera and ballet to theatre and classical concerts.

## *Biographies*

### **Charlie Cridlan** (she/her)

*“Charlie Cridlan’s deceptively simple set is full of secrets”*

The Guardian on 'We Are Arrested', RSC Mischief Festival, June 2018

Charlie is an imaginative theatre, opera and event designer with a flair for creating vivid, animated sets. Trained at the Old Vic, her background is in scenic art and illustration. She has 18 years experience working in and alongside a variety of companies, venues, scales and disciplines. Her work has a vibrant, illustrative quality and she is a skilled scenic artist.

Passionate about transforming spaces, she uses the possibility of form, fabric, light and colour to tell a story. She has created memorable, thought-provoking backdrops for events, workshops, dinners, photo shoots and launches. Charlie has a reputation for motivating people to create excellent work and she is known for her meticulous attention to detail and tenacity in achieving a shared vision.

Charlie has been nominated for several OFFIEs for best design. Her work has been exhibited at the V&A by The Society of British Theatre Designers. At The Vaults Festival 2016, 'Orator' received 'Pick of the Week' award. In 2018 'Caravan' received the Audience Choice Award.

### **Verity Overs Morrell** (she/her) Executive Director, Pentabus.

Verity is an accomplished arts leader with rural roots in Cornwall and currently based in Shropshire. With over a decade of dedicated service to Pentabus, she has held various roles, initially as a Producer and Fundraiser, showcasing her versatile skills. In November 2022, she assumed the role of Executive Director and Joint CEO, marking a significant milestone in her career. Bringing more than 20 years of experience in budget management, fundraising, and production, she has established herself as a seasoned professional in the field. Her career includes the successful management and production of over sixty shows at the Edinburgh Festival for Off The Kerb Productions. Productions for Pentabus include *Milked* by Simon Longman, *The Lone Pine Club* by Alice Birch, *Wolves Are Coming For You* by Joel Horwood, and *Here I Belong* by Matt Hartley. Her impressive track record also includes the production of *A Dangerous Woman* by Manjeet Mann, which earned recognition in the prestigious Soho Rising Season and secured a place in the top 50 plays in the 2016 Verity Bargate Award.

[Back to New Home at Ludlow Assembly Rooms.](#)